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OFFICE-No. 194 King street, over S me's (formerly French's) Book Store.

MR DAVIS, in his recent message to the Confederate Congress, does not attempt to conceal the gravity of the situation; but whilst frankly acknowledging that the Confederacy is in danger, and that Richmond itself is in greater peril than it has been at any previous time during the war, "he declares it to be his conviction that by the prompt and resolute devotion of the whole resources of the men and money of the Confederacy to the achievement of independence, it is still within the power of the people to avert the calamities that menace them." He calls for supplies of men and provisions; he advises a revision of the exemption law, and a suspension of the habeas corpus act. He says: -- "For the purchase of supplies now required especially for the armies in Virginia and North Carolina, the treasury must be provided with means, and a modification of the impressment law is required. It has been ascertained by examination that we have within our reach a sufficiency of what is most needed for the army, and without having recourse to the ample provisions existing in those parts of the Confederacy with which our communication has been partially interrupted by hostile operations. But in some districts from which supplies are to be drawn, the inhabitants, being either within the enemy's lines, or in very close proximity, are unable to make use of Confederate Treasury notes for the purchase of articles of prime necessity, and it is necessary that, to some extent, coin be paid in order to obtain supplies. It is therefore recommended that Congress devise the means of making available the coin within the Confederacy for the purpose of supplying the army. The officers of the supply departments report that with two millions of dollars in coin the armies in Virginia and North Carolina can be amply supplied for the remainder of the year, and the knowledge of this fact should suffice to ensure the adoption of the measures necessary

to obtain this moderate sum." He also states in reference to the late peace conference at Fortress Monroe, that upon ascertaining that the United States Government would not confer with the Confederate Government or any of the Confederate States upon the subject of peace, it was proposed by the Richmond commissioners to hold a conference of the military commanders of both armies, and that after the return of Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, Gen. Ord sent a communication by flag of truce to Gen. Longstreet intimating that such a conference might be held. This communication was referred to Gen. Lee, who addressed a letter to Gen. Grant, informing him that he was authorized to treat for peace, receiving, in reply, a communication stating that he (General Grant) had no authority to confer with the Confederate officers on any subject except military matters. This, he says, destroys the last hope of a settlement of the difficulty by means of peace conferences.

The question of arming the negroes is briefly referred to, the message simply stating that the efficacy of the measure had been greatly

impaired by the delays of Congress.

S. M. Felton, in consequence of continued ill health, has resigned the presidency of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company, to take effect on the 15th of the ensuing month.

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jan 3-tf

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feb 7-tf

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